

Attorney Docket: 081468-0306523
Client Reference: P-0371.010-US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
JAN EVERT VAN DER WERF et al.

Confirmation Number: 6464

Application No.: 10/693,603

Group Art Unit: 2886

Filed: October 27, 2003

Examiner: Michael Patrick Stafira

Title: METHOD OF DETECTING MASK DEFECTS, A COMPUTER PROGRAM AND
REFERENCE SUBSTRATE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicant confirms with appreciation the receipt of the Notice of Allowability for this application.

In reply to the Examiner's reasons for allowance in this application, Applicant notes that portions of the Examiner's comments paraphrase claim features and/or combine features from separate claims and thus do not accurately represent the actual claim language. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are and should be deemed patentable for the actual claim language recited therein. Applicant also respectfully submits that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of claimed features as a whole, without any particular criticality or distinguishing feature being attributable to any one or more of such features, and without any narrowing interpretation being imposed on any of such features. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart to or be required for patentability of the claims.

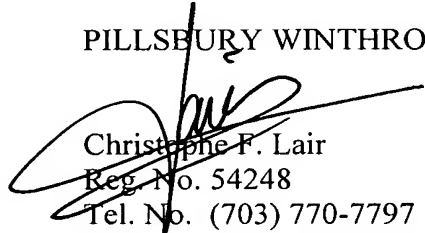
Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are all separately patentable from each other and are patentable for the subject matter specifically recited as a whole in each of those claims. Applicant also submits that the dependent claims are allowable for their dependence on the allowed independent claims and further for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

These comments are being filed concurrently with payment of the Issue Fee.

Please charge any fees, if any, associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975 (Ref. No. 081468-0306523). The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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